Mr. Valenti was born in Houston, the grandchild of Sicilian immigrants, and his parents taught him loyalty, love of the United States and the importance of education, values he never surrendered or compromised.

Still, ''a fierce ambition burned in me,'' he wrote. ''I wanted to see more, know more and feel more than what seemed to be my lot.'' He found three major combat zones in which to achieve his dreams—war, politics and movie-making—and he writes about each in a different manner.

Mr. Valenti's earliest chance to make something of himself came in World War II. He entered the Army Air Corps and flew a B–25 on 51 combat missions over Europe, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross for his valor. His descriptions of that time, that place, are among the most vivid in his book. His prose throbs with memories of an experience that was simultaneously exhilarating, terrifying and ''brutal, callous and cruel.''

After the war Mr. Valenti completed his education at Harvard Business School and returned to Texas, joining with a friend to form a highly successful advertising agency. When Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, a fellow Texan, asked Mr. Valenti to organize President John F. Kennedy's visit to Houston, scheduled for Nov. 21, 1963, Mr. Valenti managed on short notice to mastermind a flawless event. Pleased and impressed, Johnson impulsively invited him to go along on the next leg of Kennedy's journey: a brief hop to Fort Worth and Dallas, set for the next day.

Mr. Valenti went, and found himself eyewitness to the assassination of one American president and the emergency swearing in of another aboard Air Force One. Mr. Valenti would never again return to his life as an adman in Houston. That fateful Nov. 22 and its aftermath became the defining event of his life, a frame to hold his story, a shadow over it but also a foundation under it.

Mr. Valenti served three years in the Johnson White House as a top presidential aide. In this section of the book he is circumspect. He's a shrewd observer but careful with what he shares. Since he supervised Johnson's speeches, decided whom the president would see (or not see) and where he would go (or not go) to speak (or not speak), a reader wishes for more. If Jack Valenti were a great writer (he's not), a tattletale or even a Judas (he's not), his book could have been one of the most important historical pictures of the tormented decade of the 1960s in the United States.

Mr. Valenti left Washington in 1966 when Lew Wasserman, the chief executive of MCA Universal Studios, offered him the opportunity to become the head of the Motion Picture Association of America. To accept, Mr. Valenti had to face Johnson's wrath, and it says a lot about him that he did face it, carried the day and ended up still friends with that mercurial politician.

Writing about Hollywood, Mr. Valenti is looser, more willing to tell tales. His good-old-boy Texas storytelling skills are brought into irreverent play. He wryly describes his first meeting with the combined studio moguls (''the most skeptical audience in the Western world''). Full of Oval Office confidence, Mr. Valenti gave a rousing speech defining his job problems, only to hear Jack Warner, the tough-guy head of Warner Brothers, calmly tell him, ''Your biggest problem will be the people sitting around this table.''

Ultimately, Mr. Valenti learned how to operate in Hollywood: ''In any meeting, I had to know who could carry the room at a particularly sensitive moment.'' He does not state the obvious: it was usually he.

His most enduring legacy from those years was his establishment in 1968 of the motion picture rating system, for which he fought ferociously and which he defended without apology. In the preface to his book Mr. Valenti warns the reader that he is writing for his grandchildren. In other words, he's going to censor himself. Just as he kept a lid on fear under combat stress, a lid on President Johnson (no doubt a lid the size of Kansas) and a lid on the leaders of Hollywood, Mr. Valenti keeps his memoir firmly under control. He tells only what he wants to tell, disappearing behind platitudes or quotations from Emerson, Faulkner and others when camouflage is needed.

To compensate, he never apologizes for being a Democrat and gives opinions on literature (''I never fathomed James Joyce''), Cary Grant (''getting Cary to pick up the restaurant check was a miracle few had ever witnessed''), Oscar night (''a ghastly piece of business'') and more.

Mr. Valenti is only indirectly the hero of his own story, but he's still a clever adman who knows how to sell his product. What emerges is a portrait of a man who was not, as some might think, merely a political toady. In his own way he was strong and relentless, with a tough definition for leadership: ''I have my own formula, which is quite simple. It is rooted in the ability to engage in courtship, to cosset talent, to understand the human condition and to make decisions fast.''

When Mr. Valenti died at 85 of complications from a stroke, he had already unknowingly written his own most honest epitaph: ''The professional does his job right every time, without regard for anything else.'' He had lived his life as a gentleman and a patriot, always the smooth operator (with scruples), but a man of steel whenever that became necessary. He might have been the last of the breed.

REMEMBERING THE INNOCENT LOST DURING SREBRENICA GENOCIDE

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathy for the thousands who lost their lives on this, the 12th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide.

We should remember all of the innocent people who were brutally killed by honoring their lives and remembering their struggle for freedom during the 3-year conflict in Srebrenica, a city in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This conflict was the largest massacre and genocide of civilians in Europe since World War II.

In my district, I have the largest Bosnian population outside of Bosnia today. Approximately 40,000 Bosnians reside in the St. Louis, MO, area.

Of these, upwards of 5,000 are survivors of the Srebrenica massacre.

As a Representative of my Bosnian-American friends in St. Louis, I understand that this tragedy continues to affect many of my constituents.

We must commemorate those who died, hold those who are responsible accountable, and honor the brave survivors.

It is important for us to remember this dark chapter in history to learn from it for the benefit of our future generations.

HONORING DR. TOBIN MARKS OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY ON RECEIVING THE 2005 NATIONAL MEDAL OF SCIENCE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional professor and scientist at Northwestern University, Dr. Tobin J. Marks. His pioneering research in the areas of homogenous and heterogeneous catalysis, organo-f-element chemistry, new electronic and photonic materials, and diverse areas of coordination and solid state chemistry, has earned him the 2005 National Medal of Science, the Nation's highest award for lifetime achievement in fields of scientific research. As a graduate of Northwestern University, I am especially proud to recognize his accomplishments and thank him for his years of dedication.

Dr. Marks, who joined Northwestern in 1970, serves as the Vladimir N. Ipatieff Research Professor of Chemistry in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, and Professor of Materials Science and Engineering. He is recognized as a leader in the development and understanding of single-site polymerization catalysis, which is now a multi-billion dollar industry. He designed a co-catalyst that led to what is now a standard process for producing better polyolefins. Found in everything from sandwich wrap to long underwear, these versatile and inexpensive plastics are lighter in weight and more recyclable than previous plastics.

He also is conducting cutting-edge research of new materials that have remarkable electrical, mechanical, interfacial, and photonic properties. In his molecular optoelectronics work, Marks designs arrays of ''smart'' molecules that will self-assemble into, or spontaneously form, structures that can conduct electricity, switch light on and off, detect light, and turn sunlight into electricity. These structures could lead to the world's most, versatile and stable light-emitting diodes, LEDs, and to flexible ''plastic'' transistors.

During his career, Marks has received numerous honors, including the American Institute of Chemists Gold Medal, the John C. Bailar Medal from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Sir Edward Frankland Prize Lectureship of the British Royal Society of Chemistry, and the Karl Ziegler Prize of the German Chemical Society. He also is a recipient of three American Chemical Society, ACS, national awards and the ACS Chicago Section's 2001 Josiah Willard Gibbs Medal, regarded by many as the highest award given to chemists next to the Nobel Prize. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1993.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Tobin Marks for his tireless efforts in pioneering scientific research in chemistry. He has done nothing less than an extraordinary job in his field and is truly deserving of the National Medal of Science. I congratulate Tobin for this outstanding honor.